



State of Washington Citizens Advisory Committee On Pipeline Safety



Charter/Bylaws **Adopted May 2005**

1. Legislative Charter

As specified in Chapter 81.88.140 Revised Code of Washington (RCW): “The Citizens Committee on Pipeline Safety (“the Committee”) is established to advise the state agencies and other appropriate federal and local government agencies and officials on matters relating to hazardous liquid and gas pipeline safety, routing, construction, operation, and maintenance. The Committee shall serve as an advisory committee for the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (“Commission”) on matters relating to the Commission’s pipeline safety program and activities.”

2. Membership

The Committee is comprised of thirteen total members who are appointed by the governor to staggered three-year terms. Nine members represent local government, elected officials, and the public. Four non-voting members represent owners of hazardous liquid and gas pipelines.

3. Committee Chair and Vice-Chair Selection Process

Background

While members of the Committee are appointed by the Governor to three-year terms, the statute that created the Committee (RCW 81.88.140) is silent as to how the Committee is to be organized, other than voting and non-voting members. Upon appointment of the first committee, the Governor did appoint the Chair. However, given the lack of statutory direction, the Committee moved to establish a procedure for selecting its own officers.

Process

Leadership positions are to be filled by voting members of the Committee. The Committee Chair serves for a one-year term commencing with the date of term of appointments by the Governor (July 31). The Vice- Chair will serve a one-year term and then will be promoted to the position of Chair the following year. In other words, the Vice-Chair is also Chair-elect. Then each year the Committee selects a new Vice-Chair to maintain the succession.

Self-nominations for the Vice- Chair position will occur during the meeting held in May of every year. If there is more than one person interested, then a secret ballot among voting members will occur. The Vice- Chair should ideally be a member that has two to three years left in their term in order to step up into the Chair position the following year. The person selected as Vice-Chair is making a two-year commitment, one as Vice-Chair and one as Chair.

4. Goals and Expectations

The Committee shall have as its primary goals:

- Maintaining and improving the safety of pipelines in Washington State

To accomplish this goal the Committee will:

- Work to improve the understanding and awareness of pipelines and pipeline Safety in Washington State.
- Review, comment and make recommendations on proposed local, state and federal laws and rules pertaining to pipelines.
- Give counsel and advice to local governments, the WUTC Pipeline Safety Section, the Department of Ecology, and the U.S. Secretary of Transportation on pipeline issues.
- The Committee will assist Washington State citizens to understand pipelines and the safety of Washington pipelines.
- Committee members are expected to interact with key city, county, and public groups concerned with pipeline safety and with industry representatives.

5. Member Ground Rules

Committee members will strive to conduct themselves in a professional manner and treat each other with respect.

To facilitate productive discussion and decisions at meetings, Roberts Rules of Order will generally be followed.

6. Decision-making Methods

To the greatest extent possible, the Committee shall work toward consensus for decision-making. Where consensus is not reached on matters of policy or advice, the Chair shall put the matter before the voting members present for decision. For the committee to take any action a quorum must be present. Voting will be by simple majority of the voting members. The Chair will solicit input and opinions on issues from all Committee members and then conclude decision making with a vote by voting members.

7. Quorum

In order to make decisions related to action items at meetings, and vote on such items, the Committee will require a quorum to be present. A quorum will be established by a having a majority of current voting members in attendance. Non-voting members will be included in all discussions and exchanges and shall receive all information provided to Committee members.

8. Annual Workplan, Meeting Schedule and Locations

The Committee will strive to establish an annual workplan. The Chair and Vice- Chair will draft a workplan for the review of the entire Committee at the January meeting of every year.

Committee meetings will generally be held at least 6 times a year. Additional meetings throughout the year will be scheduled on an as needed basis. The meetings will generally be held the 3rd Tuesday of the following months:

January
March
May
July
September
November

Notice of meetings will be sent to all members and interested public. Meeting notifications will also be posted on the Commission's website at <http://www.wutc.wa.gov>. Meeting locations will be determined for the following year within the Committee's annual work plan. WUTC staff will book the meeting locations and will consult with the Chair and Vice- Chair to recommend an alternate location if a meeting location cannot be reserved. The Committee will strive to hold meetings throughout the state to help promote and educate citizens on pipeline safety and the work of the Committee.

9. Meeting Agendas and Minutes

- New business agenda items will be solicited from Committee members as a regular part of the Committee's meeting duties. The Committee chair will review issues raised and will decide whether to place items on the agenda for a future meeting.
- Agenda topics will be gathered from Committee member feedback, Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (WUTC), Office of Pipeline Safety (OPS), and the Washington State Department of Ecology (DOE). Committee meeting agendas will be finalized by the Chair and Vice-Chair in consultation with WUTC staff. The Chair has final approval authority for any agenda item. The Chair has ultimate responsibility to assure that agendas and meetings have continuity and that the Committee is making progress on issues.
- Agendas will be distributed as far in advance of meetings as possible, with seven days prior as the goal. Agendas will be sent to members electronically, or by other means as requested. Agendas will also be posted to the Commission's website.
- Commission Staff will record minutes of Committee meetings. Minutes will consist of a summary of issues discussed and actions taken.
- Minutes of the preceding meeting will be sent to members at the same time as new agendas are delivered. Minutes will be posted to the Commission's website following adoption by the Committee.

10. Attendance Requirements

All members are to endeavor to attend all regularly scheduled meetings of the Committee to the extent possible. Members may be excused from attendance at individual meetings by the Chair for good reason. Requests to be excused from a committee meeting should be sent by e-mail to the Chair with copies of the e-mail request sent to the Vice- Chair and the WUTC staff. Members who fail to attend three regularly scheduled meetings in a row (unexcused absence) or attend less than half the scheduled meetings in a year may be asked to resign from the Committee in order to allow other interested persons to seek membership. Members may not attend in proxy or otherwise have another individual attend as their representative. Members may attend meetings via conference call to the extent that facilities to support such participation can be made available.

11. Appointment of Committee Liaison

The Committee Chair may appoint one or more members to serve as liaison to outside committees, task forces or work groups that relate to pipeline safety concerns. While serving as a liaison, the member(s) shall be a representative of the Citizens Committee on Pipeline Safety. To the degree possible, any opinion expressed or votes made by the liaison shall reflect the position of the Committee. The liaison shall also directly give status reports to the Citizens Committee.

12. Budget

As specified in RCW 81.88.140(5), expenses for the Committee, as well as staff support, are to be provided by the Commission. The biennial budget established by the Commission includes funds to cover the Committees meetings, including travel, per diem, and lodging for members as necessary.

The Committee may pursue additional funding through the normal WUTC budgetary process. Grant requests for special committee activities and projects should be pursued through the WUTC.

13. Internal Communication

All members of the Committee shall have access to information developed or exchanged amongst the members. The Chair will solicit input and opinion from all members during Committee meetings. Members shall exchange information through e-mail, telephone, or other means and strive to keep each other up to date about issues pertaining to ongoing work of the Committee. Information pertinent to meeting agenda items will be shared as early as possible with all members in order that meetings may proceed efficiently.

14. External Communication

External communications regarding official positions of the Committee will reflect the breadth of Committee interests and concerns as much as possible.

15. Subcommittees

Subcommittees will be formed on an as needed basis to meet work demands of the committee's goals. Subcommittees shall contain at least one voting member. Each subcommittee shall establish a group Chair that will be responsible for subcommittee continuity and progress. The subcommittee Chair will also be responsible for updating the rest of the Committee on the work accomplished by their subcommittee as requested.

16. Bylaw Adoption and Amendment

Committee bylaws must be adopted by affirmative vote of a majority of voting members appointed to the Committee. Amendments to the bylaws may be made after circulation of the amendment to all members, discussion of the proposed amendment at a regularly scheduled meeting, and affirmative vote by a simple majority of the Committee's voting members.